



**MEDICAL CARE POLICY ADMINISTRATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

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**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
 Medical Laboratory Transmittal No. 59  
 Managed Care Organization Transmittal No. 2

**URGENT INFORMATION RELATED TO BILLING CHANGES**

September 30, 1997

Medical Laboratories  
 Managed Care Organizations

**FROM:** Joseph M. Millstone *JMM* Director  
 Medical Care Policy Administration

**NOTE:** Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal

Coverage, ordering, and billing of HIV-1 viral load tests  
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Under the recently implemented HealthChoice Program, reimbursement to medical laboratory providers for the performance of all Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved HIV-1 viral load testing, when properly ordered by authorized ordering practitioners, is the responsibility of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, regardless of the recipient's enrollment in a Managed Care Organization (MCO). MCO personnel are responsible for properly ordering HIV-1 viral load tests when medically necessary for the treatment of enrolled recipients.

When the MCO refers recipients or recipient specimens for FDA approved HIV-1 viral load tests, they are required to supply the medical laboratory provider with the name and Medical Assistance number of the recipient as well as the name and Maryland Medical Assistance rendering provider number of the ordering practitioner and a signed order from the authorized ordering practitioner. Unless the signed order and this information is supplied by the MCO, the medical laboratory provider is unable to bill the Program for the service.

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The only FDA approved HIV-1 viral load test, at this time, is Amplicor manufactured by Roche Diagnostics, Inc. Therefore, when billing for this test for dates of service July 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997 inclusive, providers should only use the Program created code W0913. Effective with dates of service beginning July 1, 1997, providers should use the HCPCS code G0100 for this test and any others approved by the FDA. These are the only two codes that the Program recognizes.

Hard copy billing with the attachment of the laboratory report showing the test results and the test methodology is required for reimbursement of medical laboratory providers for HIV-1 viral load tests at this time.

Contact Glenn R. Taylor, Supervisor, Medical Laboratories Program at 410-767-1462 for any questions relating to the coverage, ordering, or reimbursement of HIV-1 viral load tests by the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

JMM/grt